1955–1965. He related to me that when he won his election in 1954, he thought he would be entering a Republican Congress, but he soon learned that the Democrats had regained the majority. Congressman Avery was destined to serve all his tenure in the minority. He always felt a little jilted by history, and that is why he wanted to be on the floor of the U.S. House when the gavel passed. At that moment I realized how fortunate I really was to be entrusted with a job representing the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas, and I realized just how historic a shift in Congress can be.

Mr. Speaker, I hope Governor Avery is enjoying the beautiful Autumn evening back home in Wakefield, Kansas. I want to thank him for all his words of inspiration, his dedication and his enduring attitude. When the history of Kansas is written, it will be as kind to Governor Avery as he has been to anyone who has had the good fortune to know him.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be able to call Governor Avery my friend and to help recognize him this day for the many accomplishments he has provided the people of Kansas and this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained during rollcall votes 505–508. Had I been present I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall vote 505, 506, 507, and 508. I would ask that the RECORD reflect these votes.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF FRANK GARRISON

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Frank Garrison, on the eve of his retirement as President of the Michigan State AFL–CIO. Frank is truly one of our finest public servants in Michigan, having first been elected AFL–CIO President in 1986. As all who have ever met Frank know, he is a man who has devoted his life to helping Michigan's working men and women improve their lives.

Frank was born in 1934 in a small town in Indiana. His family, like so many others, was destitute and jobless as a result of the Great Depression. And so it was with gratitude that they named Frank after one of our country's greatest presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who created the Works Progress Administration [WPA], which allowed Frank's father to work, and helped get the family back on its feet. Frank has said he has always taken great pride in his namesake. I believe that he has certainly lived his life, like his namesake, with the purpose of helping America's working families—a goal, Mr. Speaker, that I believe is one of the most honorable of all goals.

In the early 1950s, Frank came to Michigan to find a job. He found one at General Motor's Steering Gear plant in Saginaw, a city I am proud to represent today in Congress. Shortly thereafter, he joined UAW Local 699 and, in 1955, Frank married Ms. Dora Goodboo. Later, he was drafted into the Army, and served two years before returning to his job at the Saginaw Steering Gear plant in 1956.

Frank refers to the next event in his life as a true ''turning point''. A fellow UAW Local 699 member invited him to hear a speech by the legendary Walter Reuther. Frank says he was spellbound with Reuther's deep commitment to the labor movement, and that Reuther instilled in Frank a purpose: To help ordinary working people band together and improve their lives. From that moment on, Frank has certainly been committed to doing precisely that. He ran successfully for office in UAW Local 699, and later went on to serve as Alternate Committeeman, Committeeman, Shop Committeeman, Local Union Vice-President and Financial Secretary.

He went on to a variety of appointments and positions: UAW International Representative, Community Action Program (CAP) Coordinator for Region 1D, UAW lobbyist and Legislative Director, and Michigan CAP Director. He was appointed in 1982 as Executive Director of Michigan UAW–CAP, a position he held until his election as President of the Michigan State AFL–CIO in 1986, Frank went on to be one of the longest-serving presidents, and was re-elected in 1987, 1991, and 1995.

Frank's contributions and work on behalf of Michigan's working men and women are legendary and real. They do indeed reflect Frank's great commitment to the labor movement and his belief that it is a tool to effect great change in this country. Michigan's working families will always be grateful for Frank Garrison's work, for he selflessly gave of himself to make their lives better. For that, Mr. Speaker, I say he is truly worthy of a name shared with our former President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Frank has been blessed with a supportive and caring family—his wife Dora, their three daughters, seven grandchildren and great-grandchild. He has worked hard his entire life on behalf of others, and it is my hope that during his retirement, Frank will work just as hard to enjoy these years with his family and many friends. Mr. Speaker, I now invite you and our colleagues to offer your congratulations to Frank Garrison, and your most sincere wishes for a very happy and productive retirement.

M.G. VALLEJO, FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for the RECORD:***HD***M.G. VALLEJO, Friends and Acquaintances

(By Galal Kernahan)

When the Senate and the House of Representatives approved an ''Act for the Admission of California into the Union'' on September 9, 1850, its ''Birth Certificate'' had been reviewed and found in order, whereas, the people of California have presented a constitution and asked admission into the Union, which constitution was submitted to Congress by the President of the United States.

1999 is American California's Constitutional Sesquicentennial. Forty-eight elected delegates met in Convention in Monterey and finished their work September 12, 1849. That work was approved in California-wide voting on December 13, 1849.

What follows is a glimpse of the human side of how this remarkable bilingual, multicultural state charter came into being. Chief source for the discussions and actions of the Monterey Convention one hundred and fifty years ago is an official 477-page account of what happened. Called ''Browne's Debates,'' it was published in English and in Spanish. It was bound in Washington, D.C., in 1850, in order to be properly presented together with the California Constitution to the U.S. President and appropriate officials.

The seal of the State of California is more than a little strange. It centers on a seated lady. At her feet a Grizzly bear munches grape clusters. Considering the relative scale of things, that is one huge woman! Grizzlies average 500–600 pounds and can top out at almost twice that. It looks like a dumpy dog compared to her.

Well California is vast. And as First Assistant Secretary Caleb Lyon explained to our 48 Constitutional Forefathers, Saturday, September 29, 1849, in Monterey's Colton Hall schoolhouse: ''She (the goddess Minerva . . . spring full grown from the brain of Jupiter) is introduced as a type of the political birth of the State of California . . .'' In other words, we jumped straight into being a State without spending any time in Aunt Sam's womb as a Territory.

And the bear? . . . emblematic of the peculiar characteristics of the country.''

Monterey-born Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo well knew those peculiar characteristics. Bears could be mean: bullying, armed, irregular ''Bear Flaggers,'' meaner. They locked him up and mistreated him. He facetiously suggested that, if the bear had to remain in the Seal, it should ''be represented as made fast by a lasso in the hands of a vaquero.'' The idea lost by five votes.

The convention was crawling with ambitious cub lawyers. They averaged from four months to a year or two in California. They were impressed with the symbolism—the miner with his rocker, ships on the waters, snow-clad peaks of the Sierra Nevada. ''Eureka'' (found it!) was a nifty motto too.

On Friday, October 12, 1849, after a traditional official thank-you to Chairman Robert Semple (like Vallejo, another 42-year-old from Sonoma), they trooped over to pay respects to California's Military Governor Brigadier General Bennett Riley. Before parting for San Joaquin, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, San Francisco, Sonoma, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and San Jose, they partied away the night. Each chipped in $25 for an historic blow-out, a real two-violin-guitar fandango. A 31-gun cannon salute heralded what would be American's 31st State . . . eleven months later.

On leaving next day, Henry Hill and Miguel de Pedroena wondered if printed copies of California's ''Birth Certificate'' would reach their remote San Diego district before people voted. Not to worry. Ratification carried 12,872 to 811 on a rainy November 13, 1849.

The most important thing the Constitution proved is that CALIFORNIANS BUILD THEIR STATE TOGETHER. They have from the start.

That doesn't mean it was a September Song in rustic Monterey in 1849. Delegates connived, bickered, blathered, were or became friends . . . or enemies. California diversity—as it always can—made the Convention work well enough for good things to happen.

The issue of slavery was tearing the United States apart. Furies, that would explode in

Civil War more than a decade later, spun across a continent like dust devils. Patience of men, who differed, dwindled. Some brought short-fused tempers to California's backwater capital.

A twenty-six-year-old, Henry Tefft, born in Washington Country, N.Y., was a Wisconsin resident before he reached California three months shy of the Convention. He managed to be elected a delegate from San Luis Obispo. Attorney James McHall Jones, 25, was born in Scott County, Kentucky, and lived in Louisiana before he began a similarly brief residency here. He came representing San Joaquin.

Jones was sure Thefft insulted him in convoluted argument about voting apportionment, but the animosity ran deeper than that. It quickly escalated towards the point-of-honor stage that would make a duel unavoidable.

Others acted automatically to head off tragedy. While they raised parliamentary questions about who, if anyone, should apologize to whom, Latino delegates muddled things further by announcing, ''The question appears to be respecting certain English words, which we do not understand. We desire to be excused form voting.'' Tempers cooled. (An anti-dueling Constitutional provision passed later . . . delinked from the incident by a few days.)

At Monterey, the summed lives of seven Californios totaled 293 years. Add the twelve years' residency of Spain-born Miguel de Pedroena, and this aggregated to 305. The other 40 delegates had been logged 154 California years between them all. Five were foreign-born. John Sutter, 47, from Switzerland, operated the sawmill where the gold was discovered that started the rush. The remaining 35 grew up in States of the North and South. Regional hangups were reflected in their comments. Where would an extended Mason-Dixon line divide California? Or the Missouri Compromise boundary?

The Wilmot Proviso had been like a pole thrust in American wasps' nest. In 1846, before President James Polk warred with Mexico to take half its land, he bargained to buy it. Pennsylvania Representative David Wilmot tried to tie a string to money sought from Congress. He twice persuaded the Lower House to condition appropriation on the commitment that ''neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory.'' The U.S. Senate stalled the first try by adjourning before the bill could come before it; on the second, it passed its own message without any anti-slavery language.

In the 1848 Treaty of Peace, the U.S. paid $15 million for California and what became the American Southwest. Word of the stymied Proviso had ricocheted around the country by then with States and communities lining up for or against. It echoed in distant Monterey. While Utah and New Mexico became territories, California entered the Union as a Free State in 1850. It was thanks in part to another deal by ''Great Pacificator,'' Senator Henry Clay, the same legislator who pulled the Missouri Compromise out of a hat a quarter century earlier.

Colton Hall rhetoric was, by today's standards, gratingly racist. Though not without their defenders, African-Americans and Native Americans were trashed. There was nasty talk about Chileans, Native Hawaiians, and Australians drawn by the discovery of gold. In San Francisco, they risked being lynched.

Transplanted Northerners and Southerners at Monterey knew each others' arguments by heart. They said much but no longer heard much. Theirs were dialogues of the deaf. Californios nudged everyone a bit off balance. There was language. Debate on land tenancy took an idiotic turn for Vallejo when he misheard ''freeholders'' as frijoles (free-HO-les, beans). There was culture. Courtliness and gente-de-razon class consciousness seemed Southern, but their color-free views sounded downright Northern.

A Santa Barbara Californio explained, ''Many citizens of California have received from nature a very dark skin. Nevertheless, there are among them men who have heretofor been allowed to vote, and, not only that, but to fill the highest public offices. It would be very unjust to deprive them of the privileges of citizens merely because nature had not made them white . . .''

When is black-and-white not black and white? With 16 months in California, Virginia-born Monterey Delegate Charles T. Botts, 40, claimed, ''. . . no objection to color . . . I would be perfectly willing to use any word which would exclude the African and Indian races . . .''

A Californio gift to our Original Constitution makes a married woman's property her own. It seemed a novel, somewhat daring idea to transcontinental newcomers, but Convention Secretary Henry Wager Halleck, 32, reasoned thus: ''I am not wedded either to the common law or the civil law, nor as yet, to a woman; but having some hopes that some day or other I may be wedded . . . I shall advocate this section in the Constitution. I would call upon all the bachelors in this Convention to vote for it. I do not think we can offer a greater inducement for women of fortune to come to California . . .''

The Convention interpreter must have smiled. William Hartnell landed, a young English merchant, in sleepy Monterey in 1822. He married Teresa a De La Guerra daughter. Already multilingual, his Spanish became flawless. They had 18 children.

There was contention about the new State's boundaries. Some argued California encompassed everything just taken from Mexico and stretched to Montana and Colorado. Tennessee-born William Gwin, 44, was recently of Louisiana. Not yet three months on the Pacific Coast when he arrived at the Convention representing San Francisco, he predicted: ''I have no doubt the time will come when we will have twenty states this side of the Rocky Mountains. When the population comes, they will require that this state shall be divided.''

Some immediately visualized one-for-the-South and one-for-the-North and . . .

Jose Antonio Carrillo (at 53 the oldest man there) came to the Convention toying with the idea California might be split at San Luis Obispo to leave the southern part a Territory. He changed his mind. Now he remembered that, when he was alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles, he had seen Spanish maps that bounded California with the Sierra Nevada line on the east.

About a fourth of the delegates made three-fourths of the speeches. Yet you can still sense the presence and influence of the not-so-talkative ones. With few exceptions, they prevailed on big issues.

1999 marks the Sesquicentennial of California's Original 1849 Constitution, our U.S. ticket of admission. Diversity worked. CALIFORNIANS BUILD THEIR STATE TOGETHER! Even greater diversity works today. It is our ticket to the world.

HONORING JAMES EMERSON DENNIS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Rev. James Emerson Dennis for his 66 years of service in the ministry. His endurance and tremendous strength over the years is a testimony to the success of his efforts addressing the needs of his congregations and community.

Rev. Dennis was seven years old when he accepted Christ and was baptized by his father at St. Paul Baptist Church. He was a young man of 24 when he was called to the Ministry, preaching his first sermon at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Baileysville, Texas where Rev. R.A. Sharp presided as Pastor.

Rev. Dennis was married to the late Hester Lee Williams Dennis on September 27, 1931. He is the father of four children: Ann M. White of Sea Side, California, Mayme D. Gardner of Kenner, Louisiana; James E. Dennis of Lake View Terrace, California; and the late John Williams Dennis. In February of 1934, Rev Dennis was ordained at Harlem's Chapel, B.C. where he pastored eight years. Later he was called to Bethlehem Baptist Church in Hammond, Texas, where he pastored for four years.

Rev. Dennis' most enduring stint of service—an impressive 50 years—was spent preaching at Mt. Rose Baptist Church in Brenham, Texas. From September 4, 1946 to March 31, 1997 he ministered to generations of families and neighbors who benefitted from his wisdom and faith. During that half century of service, Rev. Dennis amassed a wealth of accomplishments for his community. The present Church Edifice Mt. Rose M.B.C., Brenham, Texas was built under his administration. He also founded and organized the Brenham Cemetery Association.

While Rev. Dennis' religious and spiritual obligations have always been paramount, as a community leader, he has undertaken his civic duties with the utmost seriousness and passion, serving on several boards and organizations. His love for his fellow man and desire for social justice was evidenced by his organization of the Brenham Chapter of the NAACP. He was a Bible Lecturer and Secretary for the Lincoln District Association for 20 years, as well as Executive Vice Moderator. He was Chairman of the Congress of Christian Workers of Texas. Rev. Dennis preached in the Lincoln District Association's State Congress, State Convention, and National Baptist Convention. He served as a Member of the Faith Mission Board of Directors in Brenham, Texas and President of the Washington County Ministers Association. He was also President of the Washington County Lions Club and the Brenham Civic Club.

As an instructor, Rev. Dennis continues to share his gifts and experiences with those who seek knowledge and guidance. He teaches at Christian Bible College and A.P. Clay Theological Bible College in Kenner, Louisiana, and at the Union Theological Seminary in New Orleans. Rev. Dennis is presently a member of Christian Unity Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana where Rev. Dwight Webster is Pastor.